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# FUNERAL CUSTOMS

INCLUDING

INSCRIPTIONS FROM TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY-FIVE

FUNERAL RINGS.

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BY

GEORGE R. CURWEN.

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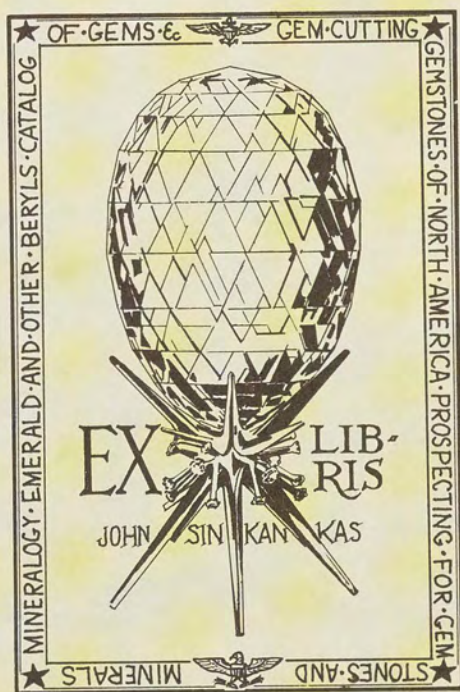
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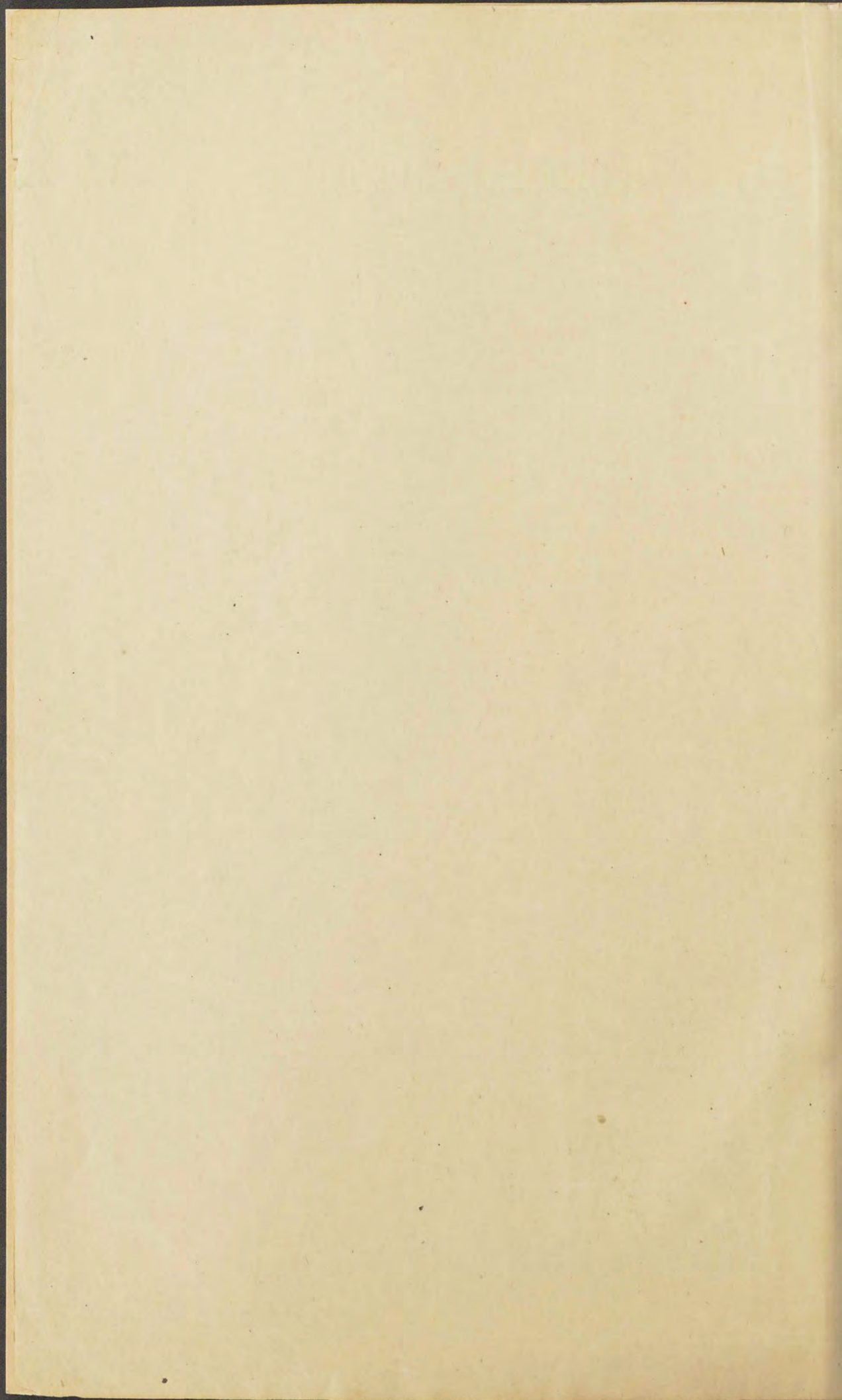
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## FUNERAL CUSTOMS.

BY GEORGE R. CURWEN.

THE plainly-conducted funerals of the present day are in such strong contrast with those of the olden time, that some extracts from different writers who make mention of the funeral customs of their day may be of interest to those of the nineteenth century.

In England coaches were used at funerals, perhaps two hundred years or more before they were so used in this country. Pepys mentions them in 1663, as a matter of course.

In New England, the relatives and friends of the deceased followed the body on foot and in couples, the body being carried on a bier on the shoulders of men. The first funeral in Salem where a hearse was used was that of John Appleton, Esqr., 7th March, 1817. Coaches were not used here until about 1830, and even after that date many continued the old fashion of walking. At the time coaches were introduced the writer heard an old lady say she thought it a very unfeeling and indecorous custom to ride to the grave of a friend instead of walking in a reverend manner.

The Sunday after the funeral, it was customary for the near relatives of the deceased to walk in procession to their usual place of worship and have a note read asking the prayer of the congregation that their affliction might be sanctified to them.

### PASSING BELL.

It was long customary in England to have a bell tolled when a person was dying, to ask the prayers of the faithful for the soul passing into eternity. This was called the passing bell.

<sup>1</sup>The following clause in the advertisement for due Order &c., published in the 7th year of Elizabeth, is much to our purpose, "Item, that when any Christian Bodie is in passing, that the bell be tolled, and that the Curate be speciallie called for to comfort the sicke person; and after the time of his passage, to ring no more but one short peale; and one before the Buriall, and another short peale after the Buriall."

During the time that the Bishop of Rome usurped authority in the

<sup>1</sup> Brand.



Church of England it was customary to toll the passing bell at all hours of the night as well as by day, as an extract from the churchwarden's accounts for the parish of Walschurh (a MS. in the Harleian Library, No. 2252) of the date 1526, shows: "Item, the Clerke to have for tollynge of the passynge Belle, for Manne, Womanne, or Childes, if it be in the day, iiijd. Item, if it be in the night, for the same, viijd.

<sup>1</sup>"In a Funeral Oration made the 14th day of January, by John Hoper, the yeare of our salvation in 1549-50, we read; Theyr Remedyes be folyshe and to be mocked at, as the Ryngynge of Belles, to ease the payne of the dead wythe other; as if the purpose of tolling the passing bell had been intended to give an easy passage to the dying person." And Veron's "Hunting of Purgatory to Death" (1561) has "If they shoulde tolle theyr Belles (as they did in good Kynge Edwardes dayes) when any bodye is drawing to his ende and departing out of this Worlde, for to cause all menne to praye unto God for him, that of his accustomed Goodnesse and mereye, he should vouchsafe too receave him unto his mereye, forgiving him all his Sinnes: Their ringinge shuld have better appearance and should be more conformable to the anciente Catholicke Church."

Durandus, who flourished about the end of the twelfth century writes in his *Rationale*: "when any one is dying, Bells must be tolled that the people may put up their prayers twice for a woman and thrice for a man; if for a Clergyman, as many times as he had Orders, and at the conclusion a peal on all the Bells, to distinguish the quality of the person for whom the people are to put up their prayers; A Bell, too, must be rung while the corpse is conducted to church, and during the bringing it out of the church to the grave. This seems to account for the custom in the north of England, of making numeral distinctions at the conclusion of this ceremony, namely, nine knells for a man, six for a woman, and three for a child; which are undoubtedly the vestiges of this ancient injunction."

#### BIDDING TO FUNERALS.

<sup>1</sup>"Previous to the formation of cemeteries and the employment of Omnibus Hearses, it was customary to invite large numbers to attend funerals. Guests were invited by dozens; and as each entered the house where the deceased lay, he was met at the door by a female attendant habited in black and wearing a white apron, who offered him spiced liquor from a silver Tankard. In the house each person was presented with a bun and a slice of currant bread, when the time for closing

<sup>1</sup> Brand.

the coffin arrived each took his last look at the corps and presented a shilling or more to the nearest relative of the deceased who alway sat at the head of the coffin for this purpose, In the neighborhood of Little Houlton, Peel Yard, Walkden Moor &c., it was till of late years the custom for two persons to be nominated as "bidders" of guests to a funeral, These went to the various houses of the persons to be invited and presented to each a sprig of rosemary, which the guest wore or carried by the hand at the funeral, This inviting or "bidding" was usually called "lating" or "lathing" from Old Saxon verb *Lathian* to invite, bid or send for."

## FUNERAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

<sup>1</sup>"These funeral entertainments are of very old date; Cecrops, it is said, having instituted them for the purpose of renewing the interrupted intercourse of old friends. Maresinus represents that in England in his time they were so profuse that it cost less to portion off a daughter than to bury a dead wife. The burial feasts are still kept up in the north of England where they are called *arvals* or *arvils*."

<sup>1</sup>"At the funeral of Sir John Gresham, Knight, mercer (1556) the church and streets were all hung with black, and arms great store. A Sermon was preached by the Archdeacon of Canterbury, and after all the company came home to as great a dinner as had been seen for a fish day, for all that came, for nothing was lacking; and likewise at the funeral of Thomas Percy, late Skinner to Queen Mary (1561), he was attended to his burial in St. Mary Aldermary church with twenty black gowns and coats, twenty clerks singing &c. The Floor strewed with rushes for the chief-mourners, Mr. Crowley preached, Afterwards was a great dole of money; and then all went home to a dinner."

<sup>1</sup>"At the funeral of Sir Humphrey Brown, Knight, Lord Chief Justice (Dec. 15, 1562), we read that the church was hung with black and arms, the helmet and crest were offered (on the Altar), and after that his target; after that his sword; then his coat armour; then his standard was offered, and his penon; and after all the mourners and judges and serjeants of the law, and servants offered, Mr. Reneger made the sermon, and, after; they went home to a great dinner."

<sup>1</sup>"In the parish of Campsie, in Stirling, Scotland (1795), it was customary till within these few years, when any head of a family died to invite the whole parish; they were served on boards in the barn, where a prayer was offered. The entertainment consisted of the following parts, first, there was a drink of Ale, then a Dram, then a piece of Short-bread then another Dram of some other species of liquor, then a piece

<sup>1</sup> Brand.



of Currant-bread and a third Dram of either spirits or wine which was followed by Loaves and Cheese, Pipes and Tobacco. This was the old Funeral Entertainment in the parish of Campsie and was stiled their service; and sometimes this was repeated, and was then stiled a double service. A Funeral cost at least, a hundred pounds Scots, to any family who followed the old course. The most active young man was appointed Server; and, in those days, while the manners were simple, and at the same time serious, it was no small honour to be a server at a Burial. However distant any part of the parish was from the place of interment, it was customary for the attendants to carry the corps on handspokes.

The mode of invitation to the Entertainment was by some special messenger; which was stiled bidding to the Burial, the form being nearly in the following words: you are desired to come to such a one's Burial to-morrow, against ten hours'. No person was invited by letter; and, though invited against ten of the clock, the corpse never was interred till the evening; time not being so much valued in those days."

#### SIN EATERS.

<sup>1</sup>" Within the memory of our Fathers in Shropshire, in those villages adjoining to Wales, when a person dyed, there was notice given to an old Sire, (for so they called him), who presently repaired to the place where the deceased lay, and stood before the door of the house, when some of the Family came out and furnished him with a Cricket on which he sat down facing the door, Then they gave him a Groat, which he put in his pocket; a Crust of Bread which he eat; and a full bowle of Ale, which he drank off at a draught. After this he got up from the Cricket and pronounced with a gesture, *the ease and rest of the soul departed, for which he would pawn his own soul.*"

<sup>1</sup>" In the County of Hereford was an old Custom at Funeralls to hire poor people, who were to take upon them the Sinnes of the Party deceased. One of them (he was a longe, leane, ugly, lamentable poor Raskal) I remember lived in a Cottage on Rosse high-way. The manner was, that when the Corpse was brought out of the house and layd on the Biere, a Loafe of Bread was brought out, and delivered to the Sinne Eater over the Corpse, as also a Mazard Bowle of Maple, full of Beer, (which he was to drink up), and Six pence in money; in consideration whereof he took upon him, *ipso facto*, all the sinnes of the defunct, and freed him or her from walking after they were dead.

This Custome (though rarely used in our dayes) yet by some people was observed even in the strictest time of the Presbyterian Government,

<sup>1</sup> Brand.



as at Dynder (volens nolens the Parson of the Parish), the kindred of a woman deceased there had this Ceremonie punctually performed, according to her Will; and also the like was done at the City of Hereford in those times, where a woman kept, many years before her death, a Mazard Bowle for the Sinn Eater; and the like in other places in this County, as also in Brecon; *e. g.* at Llanggors where Mr. Gwin, the minister, about 1640, could not hinder the performance of this ancient Custome."

#### FOLLOWING THE CORPSE TO THE GRAVE.

Misson's record of travel in England gives these details:

<sup>1</sup>"They let the body lye three or four days, as well to give the dead person an opportunity of coming to life again, if the soul has not quite left his body, as to prepare mourning, and the Ceremonies of the Funeral. They send the Beadle with a list of such Friends and Relations as they have a mind to invite; and sometimes they have printed tickets which they leave at their houses." A little before the Company is set in order for the march, he continues, "they lay the Body into the Coffin upon two stools in a room where all that please may go and see it; they then take off the top of the Coffin. Being ready to move, one or more Beadles march first, each carrying a long staff, at the end of which is a great apple or knob of silver. The Body comes just after the minister or ministers attended by the Clerk, the relations in close mourning and the Guests, two and two, make up the rest of the procession."

Macaulay's History of Claybrook<sup>2</sup> in Leicestershire (1791) narrates "at the Funeral of a Yeoman, or Farmer, the Clergyman generally leads the van in the procession, in his canonical habiliments; and the Relations follow the Corpse, two and two of each sex, in the order of proximity linked in each others' arms. At the Funeral of a young man it is customary to have six young women, clad in white, as Pall-Bearers; and the same number of young men, with white Gloves and Hat-bands, at the Funeral of a young woman, But these usages are not so universally prevalent as they were in the days of our Fathers."

According to Gough it was the practice in Flintshire to say the Lord's Prayer on bringing the corpse out of the house.

"At South Shields, the bidders, *i. e.*, the inviters to a funeral, never use the rapper of the door when they go about, but always knock with a key, which they carry with them for that purpose."

"The form of inviting to burials by the public bellman of the town is or, till very lately was used to be, in Hexham in Northumberland as follows.

<sup>1</sup> Brand.

<sup>2</sup> Birth place of Revd. John Higginson of Salem, Mass.



"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. Joseph Dixon is departed son of Christopher Dixon was. Their Company is desired to-morrow at five o'clock, and at six he is to be bu—ri—ed. For him and all faithful people give God most hearty Thanks."

#### PALL AND UNDER-BEARERS.

"The parish (writes Misson) has always three or four mortuary Cloths of different prices (the handsomest is hired out at five or six crowns) to furnish those who are at the charge of the Interment. These Cloths which they call *Palls*, are some of black velvet others of Cloth with an edge of white linen or Silk a foot broad or thereabouts. For a Batchellor or maid the Pall is white, This is spread over the Coffin, and is so broad, that the six or eight men in black cloaths that carry the body (upon their shoulders) are quite hid beneath it to their waste, and the corners and sides of it hang down low enough to be born by those (six friends Men or Women, according to the occasion) who are invited to act as pall bearers. They generally give black or white gloves, and black crape Hat bands to those that carry the Pall, sometimes also white silk scarves."

Mr. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Pepys in his Diary mentions the death of his brother "Thom," 15th March 1663-4, and gives an account of the funeral of his brother. He mentions being "up and down to cozen Stradwicks and uncle Fenner's about discoursing for the funeral." On the 18th (the day of the funeral), he says "Up betimes, and walked to my brother's, where a great while putting things in order against anon; and so to Watton, my shoemaker and there got a *pair of shoes blacked on the soles* against anon; so to my brothers, to church, and with the grave maker, chose a place for my brother to lie in, just under my mother's pew. But to see how a man's tombs are at the mercy of such a fellow, that for six-pence he would, as his own words were 'I will jostle them together but I will make room for him' speaking of the fulness of the middle aisle, where he was to lie; and that he would for my father's sake do my brother, that is dead, all the civility he can; which was to disturbe other corps' that are not quite rotten, to make room for him; and methought his manner of speaking it was very remarkable; as of a thing which was now in his power to do a man a courtesy or not. I dressed myself and so did my servant Besse; and so to my brothers again; whither though invited, as the custom is, at one or two o'clock they come not till four or five. But at last one after another, they come, many more than I bid; and my reckoning that I bid was a hundred and



twenty but I believe there was nearer a hundred and fifty, *their service was six biscuits a piece, and what they pleased of burnt claret.* My cozen Joyce Norton kept the wine and cakes above; and did give out to them that served, *who had white gloves given them.* But above all I am beholden to Mrs. Holden, who was most kind, and did take mighty pains not only in getting the house and everything else ready, but this day in going up and down to see the house filled, and served, in order to mine and their great content I think; the men sitting by themselves in some rooms, and the women by themselves in others, very close, but yet room enough. Anon to church ' (St. Brides), ' walking out into the street to the conduit and so across the street; and had a very good company along with the corps, and being come to the grave as above, Dr. Pierson, the minister of the parish, did read the service for the buriall; and so I saw my poor brother laid into the grave; and so all broke up and I and my wife and madam Turner and her family, to her brothers, and by and by fell to a barrell of oysters, cake and cheese; of Mr. Honeywood's, with him in his chamber and below, being too merry for so late a sad work. But Lord! to see how the world makes nothing of the memory of a man an hour after he is dead! And indeed I must blame myself; for though at the sight of him dead and dying, I had a real grief for a while, while he was in my sight, yet presently after, and ever since I have had very little grief indeed for him."

Mr. Pepys' "cozen" Edward Pepys died at Mrs. Turner's 15th Dec. 1663. The funeral was on the 23d which Mr. Pepys describes as follows.

"23<sup>d</sup>. up betimes and my wife being in as mourning a dress as we could, at present without cost put ourselves into, we by <sup>1</sup>Sir W. Pen's coach to Mrs. Turners at Salisbury Court, where I find my Lord's coach and six horses, we staid till almost eleven o'clock, and much company come, and anon the corps being put into the hearse, and the *scutcheons set upon it*, we all took coach and I and my wife and auditor Beale, in my Lord Sandwich's coach, and went next to Mrs. Turner's mourning Coach; and so through all the City and Shoreditch. I believe about twenty coaches, *and four or five with six and four horses.* Being come thither I made up to the mourners, and bidding them a good journey, I took leave and back again."

We now come to New England funerals which differ very much from those in England. Any religious service at a funeral in the time of the early puritans was unknown. Lechford in 1641 wrote that at burials nothing is read nor any funeral sermon made, but all the neighborhood, or a good company of them come together by tolling of the bell, and

<sup>1</sup> Father of Wm. Penn, founder of Pennsylvania.



carry the dead solemnly to the grave, and there stand while the grave is being filled. This custom began to wear off here, so far as to have serious remarks at funerals, about 1645. A Boston newspaper, 1730, records that at the burial of Mrs. Sarah Byfield a funeral prayer was made by one of the pastors.

Judge Sewall who appears to have found much pleasure in attending funerals gives us in his diary a particular account of some of them. He says :

"Friday Feb. 10, 1687-8. Between 4 and 5, I went to the Funeral of the Lady Andros, having been invited by the Clark of the South Company. Between 7 and 8 (Lychns [i. e. links or torches] illuminating the cloudy air). The Corps was carried into the Herse drawn by six horses. The Souldiers making a Guard from the Governour's House down the Prison Lane to the South Meeting House there taken out and carried in at the western dore, and set in the alley before the pulpit, with *six Mourning Women* by it. House made light with Candles and Torches \* \* \* \* \* I went home, where about nine o'clock I heard the bells toll again for the Funeral. It seems Mr. Ratcliff's Text was, Cry, all flesh is Grass \* \* \* \* \* The Meeting House full, among whom Mr. Dudley, Stoughton, Gedney, Bradstreet &c."

"6th day Dec. 25, 1696. We bury our little daughter. In the chamber, Joseph in course reads Ecclesiastes 3<sup>d</sup> a time to be born and a time to die — Elizabeth, Rev. 22. — Hannah the 38<sup>th</sup> Psalm. I speak to each as God helped, to our mutual comfort I hope, I order'd Sam. to read the 102 Psalm, Elisha Cook, Edw<sup>d</sup>. Hutchinson, John Bailey and Josia Willard bear my little daughter to the Tomb."

"Note, T'was wholly dry, and I went at noon to see in what order things were set; and there I was *entertained* with a view of and converse with, the Coffins of my dear Father Hull, Mother Hull, Cousin Quincy, and my six children; for the little posthumous was now took up and set in upon that that stands on John's; so are three, one upon another twice, on the bench at the end. My mother ly's on a lower bench, at the end, with head to her husbands head; and I ordered little Sarah to be set on her grandmothers feet, *T'was an awful yet pleasing Treat*; Having said, The Lord knows who shall be brought hether next, I came away."

"Mr. Willard prayed with us the night before, I gave him a Ring worth about 20<sup>s</sup>. Sent the President one who is sick of the Gout, He prayed with my little daughter. Mr. Oakes the Physician, Major Townsend, Speaker, of whose wife I was a bearer, and was joined with me in going to Albany and has been Civil and treated me several times. Left a Ring at Madam Coopers for the Governor."



<sup>1</sup>"Second day, Feb<sup>y</sup>. 14, 1697-8. Col. Sam<sup>l</sup> Shrimpton was buried with arms; <sup>2</sup>Ten companies, 8 Muddy River and <sup>3</sup>Sconce; No Horse nor Trumpet; but a horse led (Mr. Dyer's, the Colonel's would not endure the cloathing) Mourning Coach also and *Horses in Mourning, Scutcheons on their sides and Deaths Heads on their Forheads.*"

<sup>4</sup>"1736. A *Hatchment*<sup>5</sup> was placed on the outside of Col. Fitch's house in Boston to denote his death. It was an unusual sight, some others were afterwards put up on like occasions.

Felt's Annals, 1st edition, p. 393, gives the following account of Gov<sup>r</sup>. Burnet's funeral.

"Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> 1729. Gov. Burnet dies of a fever in Boston. He was son of the celebrated Bishop Burnet, and was born March 1668. S. Browne, of Salem, was one of the six who attended as bearers, at his funeral. \* \* \* \* \*

8<sup>th</sup> B. Lynde Jr., is on a committee of the House, to make preparation for the Governor's funeral. This was ordered as follows:—His two sons, daughter and sisters, Mr. Langlazary, French tutor to his children, George Burnet, his steward, and his servants, to be dressed in mourning; his 'coach and coach horses and a led horse to be put into mourning'; the present members of Council and House, ministers of King's Chapel in Boston, three doctors and bearers, President of College, women who laid out the corpse to have gloves and rings; 12 under bearers, Justices of Peace, Captains of Castle and man of war, Officers of Custom House, Professors and Fellows of College to have gloves, and ministers, besides those of Kings Chapel, who attend, to have gloves; the wives of those, who have rings, are to have gloves, if

<sup>1</sup> Sewall.

<sup>2</sup> Eight Boston Companies, one from Muddy River and one from the Sconce.

<sup>3</sup> A generic name for a "block house or fortress" but here means undoubtedly, "Boston Sconce," or the Fort at Fort Hill.

<sup>4</sup> Felt's Annals.

<sup>5</sup> "Hatchments are lozenge shaped frames charged with a Shield of Arms, and usually affixed to the front of a house on the death of one of its principal inmates. In the execution of a Hatchment, certain rules are observed, by which it is clearly indicated whether the deceased person was single, married, widow, or widower and also the rank to which he or she was entitled.

If the deceased person was a Bachelor, the whole of the field on which his shield is placed should be black.

The Arms of an unmarried Lady are charged upon a Lozenge; a knot of ribbons takes the place of a Crest, and the motto is omitted. In other respects her Hatchment is similar to that of a Bachelor.

The Arms of a Widower appear impaled with those of his late wife, that part of the frame and field on which the Arms of the wife rest is white, showing that she survives; while the dexter side on which the Arms of her husband are placed, is black. If the wife were dead and the husband were still living, this arrangement would be reversed.

On the death of a Widow, the Arms of her late husband and herself would be impaled upon a Lozenge, without Crest or Motto.

The Hatchment of a Bachelor may readily be distinguished from that of a Widower, by observing that the Arms of the former are either single or quartered, while the latter are impaled. The same distinction obtains between the Hatchments of Spinster and Widower."—Cussans "Handbook of Heraldry.



attending the funeral; guns at the Castle and Battery to be discharged; wine needful to refresh Boston regiment under arms to be provided; this regiment to have usual mourning, its field officers to have gloves and rings, and its other commissioned officers to have gloves;" the door keepers of his Excellency and this Court to be put into mourning. The expenses of this funeral were £1097.11.3.

#### FUNERAL RINGS.

The giving of Rings at Funerals was a very early custom in New England and was brought here from Old England by our early settlers. Dr. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff in his "Topographical and Historical Description of Boston," mentions them as Funeral Rings, black enameled, edged with gold, bearing as inscription the name, age and date of death of the person at whose funeral they were given.

Anne of Cleves, 4th Queen of Henry VIII, who died 17th June, 1557, left by her will several mourning rings to be distributed among her friends and dependents. Another lady of eminence who died in 1621, in England, by will gave rings to all her brothers' wives, to her brothers themselves, to her two brothers-in-law and to such of her friends as her executor thought fit.

At the funeral of Samuel Pepys, Esq., in London, 4th June, 1703, there were 241 Rings of different values, given to his family and friends.

Funeral Rings were variously ornamented, some were very plain while others were much more elaborate.

One in England is described as of gold, enamelled, and formed of two skeletons who support a sarcophagus, the skeletons are white enamel and the lid of the sarcophagus is also enamelled and has a Maltese Cross in red, on a black ground, studded with gilt hearts and when lifted displays another skeleton.

One of the rings made for the funeral of the first wife of President Holyoke of Harvard College, is now in Salem, Mass., in the possession of a great great granddaughter of the President. It is of gold, with a sarcophagus on the top of the ring, supported by skeletons in black enamel which are round the ring, their heads touching the sarcophagus and their feet meeting at the bottom of the ring; the inscription<sup>1</sup> (E. H. ux E. H. ob Aug<sup>t</sup>. 15, 1719, æt. 28) is on the inside of the ring.

Gloves were given at most funerals and scarfs at many, but rings were confined almost exclusively to the wealthy; they were handsome, were of gold and most of them enamelled, some of black enamel, some white, and some both black and white, the gloves were of kid, had stiff tops which covered the lower part of the coat sleeve; some were white, others black. The scarfs which were of white linen, or silk, or of some

<sup>1</sup> Her portrait is now in the Essex Institute, Salem.



black stuff and frequently of silk, were about three yards long, worn over the shoulder and tied at the side near the waist; where the wealth would admit of it all three were given to the minister, pall-bearers, doctor and near relatives. Doctor Thomas Barton of Salem, Mass., who died in 1758, aged 81 years, was said to have left at his death a quart mug full which he had received at funerals.

The following is a note from Chambers' Book of Days, Vol. I, page 72. "Rings bearing a death's head were in great favor in the grim religious times. In a will dated 1648, occurs this clause 'also I do will and appoint ten rings of gold to be made, of the value of twenty shillings apiece sterling, with a death's head upon some of them.'"

Many of the funeral rings in this country were ornamented by a death's head, some with a coffin and a full length skeleton lying in it, some with a death's head and wings, some with a death's head and cross bones. These rings had the name, age and date of death upon them, and are valuable in preserving dates. When a funeral occurred in a family, rings which they had received at funerals were often collected and sent to the goldsmith's to be melted in exchange for new rings to be used at that funeral. Goldsmiths kept new rings on hand which only needed the name, age and date engraved upon them, and then to be filled with enamel. The engraving and filling was called fashioning.

The following bill shows that old gold (probably rings) was given in exchange for new rings.

"The Hon<sup>ble</sup>. Benj: Lynde Esq<sup>r</sup>. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Curwin Esq<sup>r</sup>. and Mr. Henry Gibbs Executors to the last Will & Testament of Mr. W<sup>m</sup> Lynde dec<sup>d</sup> to James Turner.

1752.

Dr.

May 14.	To 8 Escutcheons for y <sup>e</sup> . Funeral of f <sup>d</sup> . dec <sup>d</sup> . at 8/ ap <sup>s</sup> .	£6[torn]
	To an Inscription on y <sup>e</sup> Breastplate of the Coffin	8-0
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	To 9 Enamell'd Rings for D <sup>o</sup> . w <sup>t</sup> . 13 <sup>dwt</sup> . 23 <sup>gr</sup> .	
	To fashioning D <sup>o</sup> . at 9/4 ap <sup>s</sup> .	4-4-0
9 <sup>th</sup>	To adding a Crescent for Difference to each of the Escutcheons at 2/ ap <sup>s</sup> .	16-0
		£11=16=0

Supra . . . . . Cr.

May 11 <sup>th</sup>	By Gold Receiv'd of the hon <sup>ble</sup> B. Lynde Esq <sup>r</sup> . 17 <sup>dwt</sup> =8 <sup>gr</sup> .	
	Weight of y <sup>e</sup> Rings Deducted	13 23
	Overplus Gold	3=9 at 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> p <sup>r</sup> oz. £0=17=1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
	By 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub> y <sup>ds</sup> . black a'la mode taken up by S. Curwin, } Esq <sup>r</sup> at Mr John Nutting's }	0=11=8
	By 3 Books of Leaf Gold Rec'd of y <sup>e</sup> Hon <sup>ble</sup> B. Lynde Esq <sup>r</sup> a 3/4.	10 0
	By 2 Ditto rec'd of D <sup>o</sup>	6 8

£2= 5=5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>

Ballance due to James Turner . . . . . 9=10=6<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>  
Marblehead Sept<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1752 Errors Excepted &<sup>c</sup>

JAMES TURNER.

Dr. Thomas Barton of Salem says in his will, dated 1751, "I give to my wife all my gold rings had at funerals save what may be made use of for my own funeral."

The following from Judge Sam<sup>l</sup>. Sewall's Diary, Vol. II, page 377, shows that scarfs given at funerals were worn after the funeral; probably the Sunday after.

"April 22, 1713. Madam Stoddard buried. Bearers, Gov<sup>r</sup>. Dudley, Lieut. Gov<sup>r</sup>. Tailer, Lt. Gov<sup>r</sup>. Usher, Sam<sup>l</sup>. Sewall, Peter Sargeant, Esq. All the ministers had scarves and Joseph had one. *It seemed inconvenient presently to throw off Mr. Stoddard's scarf and not wear it once as was like to be, if had gone to Salem.*"

Felt says "Our Fathers who had property enough were in the habit of giving gloves, gold rings and scarfs at funerals of their relatives. Our town authorities carried the fashion so far as to gloves, that they distributed them at the burial of their paupers. Among bills under this head one of 1728 has a charge for six pairs of gloves. This custom was excessively indulged in by some of the higher classes. In 1736 when Governor Belchers wife was interred, above one thousand pairs of gloves were given to those who attended."

The following funeral rings are known to have been or are still in existence.

The following list of rings is copied from a record made by George Curwen, Esq., of Salem, Mass., son of Rev. George Curwen. He graduated from Harvard College, 1735, his father, Rev. George, graduated 1701.

"An Acc<sup>o</sup> of the Rings had, belonging to the Estate of my Hon<sup>d</sup>. Father Deceased, Vizt."

W<sup>m</sup> Hirst Oblit. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1-1717.

H. S. Oblit, Octo<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1717, æ. 6 years.

M. T. Oblit, Feb. 23<sup>d</sup> 1693. æ. 68. (Margaret Thacher).

G. Curwen Oblit, Jan<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> 1684. æ. 74.

G. Curwen, Eadem.

E. Seargent, Oblit, Nov<sup>r</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1700.

E. Woolcott Oblit July 12<sup>th</sup> 1709. ata. 14.

P. Woolcott Oblit 28<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1690. ata 20."

The following is copied from another memo. made by the same person who made the foregoing list.

"Rings that belong to me given by relations.

P. S. Died 8<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1713 æ. (Peter Sergeant).

Coll<sup>o</sup>. B. Gedney Oblit 23<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1697.

D. Parkman Oblit 15<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup>. 1715. æ. 64.

" " " " " " " " " " " "



E. Seargent Obiit. Nov<sup>r</sup>. 10<sup>th</sup> 17 —.  
 T. T. Obiit 15<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1678. æ. 57. (Tho<sup>s</sup>. Thatcher).  
 B. Browne jr. Obiit, April 24, 1737. æ. 21.  
 E. Gibbs Obiit, Aug<sup>t</sup>. 1. 1736. æ. 14 mo.  
<sup>1</sup> Ann Gibbs Obiit, Dec<sup>r</sup>. 9. 1737. æ. 18.  
 The foregoing acct. taken July 29, 1737."

The following inscriptions were copied from funeral rings which were left by Mrs. Susanna Ward, widow of Joshua Ward, Esq., of Salem and daughter of the late Edward Augustus Holyoke, Esq., M. D., now in possession of her grandchildren.

E. H. ux E. H. Ob. Aug. 15, 1719, æt. 28.  
 Margaret Holyoke ux Edward Holyoke Ob<sup>t</sup> 25 June, 1740. ætat 40.  
 Mary Simpson Ob. 26 Sep. 1757. æ. 71.  
 Mary Barton Ob. 3 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1758. æ. 81.  
 Thomas Toppan, Ob. 21 April 1758. æ. 20.  
 E. Orne, Ob. 30 March 1759. æ. 33.  
 S. Epes Esq. Ob. 30 June 1760. æ. 27.  
 Doc. B. Toppan Ob. 8 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1762. æ. 56.  
 E. Sargent Esq. Ob. 6 Dec<sup>r</sup> 1762. æ. 72.  
 N. Ward, Ob. 13 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1768. æ. 23.  
 Joseph Cabot Ob. 5 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1774. æ. 29.  
 Mrs. Margaret Mascarene Ob<sup>t</sup> 21 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1792. æ. 66.  
 Thomas Robie Esq. Ob: 15<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1811. Æ. 82.  
 T. Lechmere Jun<sup>r</sup> Esq. Ob. 29<sup>th</sup> June 1757 Æ. 45.

Funeral rings now in possession of Miss Sally Pickman Loring, of Salem, Mass., which came to her through the family of her mother (the Pickmans, of Salem.)

Hon. Benj. Pickman Ob. Aug<sup>t</sup> 20. 1773. æt. 66.  
 E. Pickman, Ob. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1761. Æ. 47. (2 rings).  
 Thomas Barton Ob. April 28. 1751. Æ. 71.  
 Mary Barton Ob. 3 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1758. Æ. 81. (2 rings).  
 Dr. B. Toppan Ob<sup>t</sup> 8 Aug<sup>t</sup> 1762. Æ. 56.  
 Rev. C. Toppan Ob<sup>t</sup> 26 July 1747 Æ. 76.  
 S. Toppan Ob. 17 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1759 Æ. 19. (2 rings).  
 A. Toppan Ob. 13 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1778. Æ. 20.  
 Willoughby Toppan Ob. 6 May 1760 Æ. 24.  
 J. Holyoke Ob. 19 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1756 Æ. 19.  
 Olive Plummer Ob. 15 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1802 Æ. 47.  
 T. Burrill Esq. Ob. 4 July 1737. Æ. 68.  
 G. Hooper Ob. 15 Nov<sup>r</sup> 1759. Æ. 23.  
 A. Browne Ob. 18 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1724 Æ. 39.

Funeral rings now in possession of Mrs. John Amory Codman, of Boston, Mass.

A. Brown. ob. 16<sup>th</sup> April 1729. Æt 9  
 H. Chandler, ob. 5<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1738. Æ. 39.

<sup>1</sup>This ring was entered in pencil evidently after the list was dated.

J. Leg. obt. 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1750. Æ. 25.  
 T. Barton Esq. obt. April 28<sup>th</sup> 1751. Æ. 71.  
 J. Holyoke obt. Nov<sup>r</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1756. Æ. 19.  
 { R. Greene, obt. 19<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1760 Æ. 27, inside of the same ring is engraved W.  
 { Greene, obt. 25<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1754 Æ. 13.  
 N. Henchman Esq. ob. 30<sup>th</sup> May 1767. Æ. 39.  
 K. Child Gillam, ob. 24<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1768. Æ. 62.  
 W. Fisher. obt. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1770. Æ. 43.  
 Hon. Benj. Pickman obt. 20<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1773. Æ. 66.  
 Kath<sup>l</sup> Amory, obt. 11<sup>th</sup> April 1777. Æ. 45.  
 Thomas Lane Esq. ob. 25<sup>th</sup> May 1784 Æ. 76.  
 Catherine Parker, ob. 4<sup>th</sup> May 1803 Æ. 23.

Funeral rings now in possession of Mr. Francis H. Lee, of Salem, Mass.

M. Greene, O. B. 28 Feb. 1756. Æ. 39.  
 T. Orne, O. B. 14 July 1767. Æ. 50.  
 J. Cabot, O. B. 8 Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1767. Æ. 48.  
 W<sup>m</sup> Warner Esq. O. B. 11 Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1771. Æ. 43.  
 Joseph Cabot O. B. 5 : Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1774. Æ. 29.  
 D : A. O. B. 4 June 1801. Æ. 62.

A memo. of Funeral Rings, belonging at the present time to Mr. Geo. R. Curwen of Salem.

W. Pickman Ob. 10 April 1735. æ. 24.  
 N. Ropes Ob<sup>t</sup>. 22<sup>d</sup>. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1752. æ. 60.  
 Hon. N. Ropes Esq. Ob. 18 March 1774 Æ. 48.  
 W<sup>m</sup> Hunt jr. O. B. 29 May 1769 Æ. 26.  
 E. Hunt O. B. 30 Aug. 1764 Æ. 57.  
 E. Pickman Ob. 16<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1761 Æ. 47.  
 Eliz Maplesden Ob. 3 July 1738. æt. 56.  
 Philippa Browne O. B. 20<sup>th</sup> July 1763. æ. 13.  
 Prudence Whitwell Ob<sup>t</sup>. 7 Feb<sup>y</sup>. 1773. Æ. 33.  
 Capt. Sam<sup>l</sup>. Gates O. B. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1788. Æ. 74.  
 T. Cotton O. B. 25. Oct<sup>r</sup>. 1775. Æ. 59.

#### OTHER FUNERAL RINGS NOW KNOWN TO BE IN EXISTENCE.

L. Ward O. B. 25<sup>th</sup> April 1772. Æ. 69. She was third wife of Joshua Ward, Esq., of Salem, was the widow Hawkes at the time he married her, her maiden name Burrill. Now in possession of Mrs. William F. Day of Roxbury.

J. Wendell O. B. 7 Sept. 1761 Æ. 71. In possession of Mr. Oliver Wendell Holmes Upham of Salem, Mass.

Rebecca Orne Ob. 1 May 1771. Æ. 44. In possession of Mr. Andrew Nichols of Danvers, Mass.

N. Hathorne O. B. 25 May 1761. Æ. 65. He was son of William Hathorne and brother of Daniel, who was father to Mrs. Simon Forrester and grandfather to Nathaniel Hawthorne the author. Formerly in possession of Mrs. Eleanor Forrester Conditt, Newark, N. J.



Elizabeth Ropes, Ob. 20 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1783, aged 36. In possession of Mr. William Leavitt of Salem.

J. Pratt, ob march 12<sup>x</sup> 1729 Æ<sup>t</sup> 65. In possession of Mrs. Richard West (Dorcas H. Cleveland), Florence, Italy.

T. Gerry Esq. O. B. 13 July 1774 Æ. 73. In possession of John Langdon Ward, Esq., New York.

Sir William Pepperrell Baronet, Ob. July 6 1759 aged 63 years. In possession of D. H. Bemis, jr., of Lancaster, Mass.

Sir William Pepperrell Baronet Ob. July 6, 1759 aged 63. In possession of Mrs. Henry Rice of Salem, Mass.

S. Toppan Ob. 17 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1759, Æ. 19. In possession of Miss Elizabeth G. Phillips of Salem, Mass.

Hon. Madam Belcher Ob. 6 Oct<sup>r</sup> 1736. Æ. 51. In possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

George Curwen obt. 7 June 1746 Æ. 29. In possession of Mr. James B. Curwen of Salem.

J. Bowditch, Obt. 27 May 1758, Æ. 27. In possession of Miss Elizabeth West Gardner of Salem.

Mary Stow, Ob. 1749, on the inside. "Death parts united hearts." In possession of Mr. Francis Cox of Salem. Mary Stow was from Newfoundland.

W. M. Parsons. obit. 14 Dec. 1783. Æ. 68 yrs., engraved on the inside. In possession of Anna Riker Spring, New York City.

"N. Rogers | Ob. 10 May | 1775. Æ. 74." Enamelled—coffin—with skeleton in it. In possession of Augustus Dodge Rogers Esq. of Salem.

E. Toppan Ob. May 4, 1773. Æ. 75.

S. W. Ob. 16 March 1709–10.

Both plain gold rings with the inscription inside the rings, in possession of Miss Abbie Farley of Salem.

E. D. ob. 3 Sept. 1740 æ 36. } In possession of the Essex In-  
W. Pickman 10 April 1735 Æ. 24. } stitute.

Hon. B. Lynde Esq. Ob<sup>t</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1781. Æ. 81. In possession of Fitch Edward Oliver, Esq., M.D., of Boston.

S. P. agd. 39 Obt 22 April 1707. The ring a serpent with tail in his mouth. In possession of Miss Elizabeth Cleveland Allen of Salem.

J. Crowninshield O. B. 25<sup>th</sup> May 1761. Æ. 65. In possession of Mr Benjamin W. Crowninshield of Boston.

The following rings were received by Judge Sam Sewall according to his Diary from which they were copied :

Mrs. Eliza Saffin, Obt. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1687.

W<sup>m</sup> Needham, Obt. 3<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1690.

Mrs. ——— Richards Obt. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1691.

- Gov<sup>r</sup> Simon Bradstreet Obt 27<sup>th</sup> March 1697.  
 Sarah Sewall Obt. 23<sup>d</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1696. Æ. 2 years, daughter of Judge Sam<sup>l</sup> Sewall.  
 Mrs. Mary Danforth Obt. 26<sup>th</sup> Mar., 1697.  
 Cap<sup>t</sup> Edw<sup>d</sup> Wyllys Obt 11<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1698.  
 Thomas Danforth Esq. Obt. 5<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1699.  
 { Mrs. Jane Sewall Obt. 14<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1700-1, mother of Judge Sam Sewall and Major  
 { Stephen Sewall.  
 Mrs. Martha Collins, Obt. 21<sup>st</sup> March 1700.  
 Mr. John Eyre, Obt. 17<sup>th</sup> June 1700.  
 { Madam Elizabeth Sergeant Obt. 10<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1700.  
 { She was born 11<sup>th</sup> April 1660.  
 { Mrs. Mary Lynde, Obit. 20<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1700.  
 { Maiden name Richardson.  
 Madam Emm Lynde, Obit. 4<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1703.  
 Mr. Nath<sup>l</sup> Oliver Obt. 15<sup>th</sup> April 1704.  
 { Madam Anna Richards Obt. 27<sup>th</sup> June 1704.  
 { She was a daughter of Gov<sup>r</sup> John Winthrop of Connecticut.  
 Madam Sarah Leverett Obt. 2<sup>d</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1704-5.  
 { Madam Anna Paige Obt. 30<sup>th</sup> June 1704.  
 { She was niece of Gov<sup>r</sup> Joseph Dudley.  
 { Lady Mary Sergeant Obt. 20<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1705-6. Æ. 58 years.  
 { 3<sup>d</sup> wife of Peter Sergeant Esq. and formerly widow of  
 { Sir W<sup>m</sup> Phipps.  
 Mrs. Eli. Quincy Obt. 30<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1700.  
 James Bayley Esq Obt. 18<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1706-7.  
 { Hon. F. J. Winthrop Obt. 4<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1707.  
 { (Fitzjohn, Gov<sup>r</sup> of Connecticut.  
 Mrs. Mary Stoddard Obt. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1708.  
 Col. John Foster Esq. Obt. 9<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1710-11.  
 Mrs. Abigail Foster Obt. 5<sup>th</sup> March 1710-11.  
 Mrs. Sarah Banister Obt. 30<sup>th</sup> June 1711. Æ. 57.  
 John Walley Esq. Obt. 11<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup> 1711.  
 { Mrs. Elizabeth Hutchinson Obt. 3<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1712-13.  
 { 2<sup>d</sup> Wife of Elisha Hutchinson and daughter of Major Thomas Clark.  
 { Mrs. Eliza<sup>h</sup> Addington. Obt. 2<sup>d</sup> March 1712.  
 { wife of Isaac Addington.  
 Mrs. Eliza Stoddard Obt. 17<sup>th</sup> April 1713.  
 Mrs. Sarah Walley Obt. 11<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1711.  
 { Peter Sergeant Esq. Obt. Feb<sup>y</sup> 1713-14. Æ. 67 years.  
 { Married 1<sup>st</sup> Elizabeth Curwen daughter of Capt. Geo. Curwen  
 { of Salem, 2<sup>d</sup> Elizabeth Shrimpton, 3<sup>d</sup> Lady Mary Phipps widow  
 { of Sir W<sup>m</sup> Phipps, 4<sup>th</sup> Mehitable (Minot) Cooper.  
 { Hon. W<sup>m</sup> Browne Esq. Ob<sup>t</sup> 22<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>y</sup> 1715-16. Æ. 76 years.  
 { He married Hannah daughter of Cap<sup>t</sup> Geo. Curwen of Salem.  
 { Isaac Addington Esq. Ob<sup>t</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> March 1715. Æ. 71 years.  
 { His mother was Anne sister of Gov<sup>r</sup> Leverett.  
 { Madam Elizabeth Cook, Obt. 21<sup>st</sup> July 1715. Æ. 64 years.  
 { She was a daughter of Gov<sup>r</sup> John Leverett and wife of Elisha Cook, born 26<sup>th</sup>  
 { April 1651.  
 { Elizabeth Hirst Obt. 10<sup>th</sup> July, 1716.  
 { She was a daughter of Hon. Judge Sam<sup>l</sup> Sewall and married Grove Hirst Esq. son  
 { of William Hirst. Mary Hirst daughter of Grove and Elizabeth (Sewall) Hirst  
 { married the first Sir William Pepperrell.  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. William Brattle Obt. Feb<sup>y</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1716-17.



Mrs. Hannah Sewall Obt. 19<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1717.

{ Capt. Andrew Belcher Jr. Obt. Nov<sup>r</sup> 1717.

{ He was father of Gov<sup>r</sup> Jonathan Belcher.

{ Maj<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup> Wait Still Winthrop Obt. 7<sup>th</sup> Nov<sup>r</sup> 1717. He was son of Gov<sup>r</sup> John Winthrop Jr. of Connecticut.

{ Col. Nicholas Paige Obt. Nov<sup>r</sup> 1717. He was from Plymouth, County Devon, married Anne, widow of Edward Lane and niece of Gov<sup>r</sup> Joseph Dudley.

{ Gov<sup>r</sup> Joseph Dudley Obt. 2<sup>d</sup> April 1720.  $\text{\AA}$ . 83 years. Son of Gov<sup>r</sup> Thomas Dudley. Married Rebecca daughter of Edw<sup>d</sup> Tyng.

{ Mrs. Abigail Sewall Obt. 26<sup>th</sup> May 1720.  $\text{\AA}$ . 54 years.

{ She was a daughter of Jacob Melyen and married 1<sup>st</sup> James Woodmansey, 2<sup>d</sup> William Tilley, 3<sup>d</sup> Hon. Judge Sam<sup>l</sup> Sewall.

{ Madam Sarah Hutchinson Obt. Feb<sup>r</sup> 1720-1.

{ She was the wife of Eliakim Hutchinson and daughter of Henry Shrimpton.

Madam Mary Checkley Obt. 18<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1721.  $\text{\AA}$ . 65.

{ Mr. John White Ob<sup>t</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1721.  $\text{\AA}$ . 52.

{ Treasurer of Harvard College.

{ Madam Rebecca Dudley Obt. 21<sup>st</sup> Sept. 1722  $\text{\AA}$ . 71.

{ Widow of Gov<sup>r</sup> Dudley and daughter of Edw<sup>d</sup> Tyng Esq.

{ Pres<sup>t</sup> John Leverett Obt. 3<sup>d</sup> May 1724.  $\text{\AA}$ . 62.

{ President of Harvard College from 1708 till his death.

{ He was a grandson of Gov<sup>r</sup> John Leverett.

{ Hannah Sewall Obt. 15<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1724.  $\text{\AA}$ . 44 years.

{ Daughter Judge Sam<sup>l</sup> Sewall.

{ Mrs. Abigail Arnold Obt. 23<sup>d</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1724-5.  $\text{\AA}$ . 62 years.

{ She was a daughter of Theophilus and Hannah (Eliot) Frary.

{ Married 1<sup>st</sup> Isaac Walker, 2<sup>d</sup> Capt. Berechia Arnold.

Mrs. Palsgrave Walker Obt. 15<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>r</sup> 1725-6.

Mrs. Sarah Clark Obt. April 1725-6.  $\text{\AA}$ . 69.

{ Mrs. Sarah Middlecott Obt. 9<sup>th</sup> April 1726.  $\text{\AA}$ . 88 years.

{ She was a daughter of John Winslow and married 1<sup>st</sup> Miles Standish, 2<sup>d</sup> Tobias Payne and 3<sup>d</sup> Richard Middlecott.

{ Rev<sup>d</sup> Mr. Peter Thacher Obt. 18<sup>th</sup> Dec<sup>r</sup> 1727  $\text{\AA}$ . 76 years.

{ He was a son of Rev<sup>d</sup> Thomas Thacher who was a son of Rev<sup>d</sup> Peter Thacher of St. Edmund's Salisbury, England.

{ Capt. Samuel Phipps Obt. 6<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>t</sup> 1725.

{ He was a Clerk of Courts and Register many years.

"T. Pitkin, Ob. 19 May, 1772,  $\text{\AA}$ . 40," in possession of Miss Mary K. Talcott, Hartford, Conn., a descendant. T. Pitkin was wife of Rev. Timothy Pitkin of Farmington, Conn., and dau. of Rev. Thomas Clapp, president of Yale College.

"B. W., Ob. July 3, 1728, Aet. 19," in possession of Miss Anna Olmsted of East Hartford, Ct., a descendant of Rev. Samuel Woodbridge, of East Hartford, Conn., whose nephew, Benjamin Woodbridge, was killed in a duel July 3, 1728, on Boston Common.

"S W. PEPPERRELL BAR<sup>r</sup>, Ob. 6 July, 1759.  $\text{\AA}$ . 63," gold and enamel. This ring is in the possession of John H. Treat of Lawrence, having descended to him through the marriages of the Frosts and Wentworths.

R. K. ob. 20<sup>th</sup> Sep<sup>r</sup> 1716. Æ 17. (This was Robert Kitchen a student at Harvard College son of Robert Kitchen Esq. of Salem, Mass., who died 28<sup>th</sup> Oct<sup>r</sup> 1712), now in possession of Mrs. Nath<sup>l</sup> Ingersoll of Detroit, Michigan.

SEWALLS DIARY, VOL. 2, p. 424.

"7<sup>th</sup> day Feb<sup>r</sup> 13, 1713-14. Serene pleasant weather, Mr. Sergeant interr<sup>d</sup> Bearers, Winthrop, Elisha Hutchinson; Sewall, Addington, Townsend, Belcher; *Scarvs, Rings, Gloves, Escutcheons.*"

SEWALL, VOL. 3, page 43.

"Midweek, March 23, 1714-15. Mr. Addington buried from the Council Chamber; 'twas a sad spectacle; Bearers Lt. Gov<sup>r</sup> Mr. Winthrop, Elisha Hutchinson, Sewall, Eliakim Hutchinson, Belcher, *All had Scarves, Rings, Escutcheons*, was laid in Gov<sup>r</sup> Leverett's Tomb."

Felt's annals, 2<sup>d</sup> edition, vol. 2, p. 446, says a sumptuary act is passed in 1742, which not only forbid the giving of scarfs, but also of rings and gloves, at funerals, except six pair of the last to the bearers, and one to the pastor of the deceased.

(Felt says) "It had long been a custom and so continued, to provide large quantities of wine, cider, sugar and spice at the funerals of eminent persons, nor was it dispensed with entirely even when paupers were interred. Among the items for one of the latter class in 1728 was a gallon of wine and the same measure of cider, and in 1729, for another, six quarts of rum, sugar and allspice."

From Felt's Annals, 1st edition, p. 329 :

"14<sup>th</sup>. Dec<sup>r</sup>. 1698. It is ordered hereafter when any corpse belonging to this town, is to be interr<sup>d</sup>, the sexton or bell ringer, shall, in two hours after the first bell's ringing, ring the second bell, giving the relations first notice thereof; at the ringing of which all persons with the corpse are to move and walk orderly two and two, *if a man is buried the men follow first, if a woman the women first*,—no person shall presume to run or go before or abreast with the corpse or the relations.

"Sept. 21, 1702. It is ordered, that a constable attend funerals of any, that die with the small pox and walk before the corpse, to give notice to any who may be in danger of the infection."

"Felt, vol. 2, p. 45. As funerals had been quite late, they are ordered to be no later than sunset."

1727. A law was enacted that there shall be no funeral on the Sabbath, except in uncommon cases, without leave from a justice or the selectmen. This was observed for many years.



Following from Lucius M. Sargent's "Dealings with the Dead," is pertinent to the subject.

"The dead speak from their coffins—from their very graves—and verily the heart of the true mourner hath ears to hear. Gloves and rings are the valedictories of the dead—their vales, or parting tokens, received by the mourners, at the hand of some surviving friend. This appropriate word, vale, as almost everyone knows is the leave taking expression of the mourners, as one syllable, signifies those vales or tokens, in various forms, from shillings to crown pieces, bestowed by parting visitors, on domestics, from the head waiter to the scullion. They are intended as leave tokens. Every servant in the families of the nobility, from the highest to the lowest, expect a vale, not in the classical sense of menalcas—Longom, formose,—vale, but in lawful money, intelligible coin. This practice had become so oppressive to visitors, in the early part of the reign of George III, that Sir Jonas Hanway, wrote and published eight letters to the Duke of Newcastle against the custom of giving vails, in which he relates some very amusing anecdotes. Mr. Hanley being quietly reproached, by a friend, in high station, for not accepting his invitations to dinner, more frequently, frankly replied, "Indeed, my Lord, I cannot afford it." He recites the manner of leaving a gentleman's house, where he had dined; the servants, as usual, flocked around him—"your great coat, Sir Jonas"—a shilling; "your hat, sir"—a shilling; "stick, sir"—a shilling; "umbrella, sir"—a shilling; "sir, your gloves"—"well, keep the gloves, they are not worth the shilling." A remarkable example of the insolence of a pampered menial was related to Mr. Hanway, by Sir Timothy Waldo. He had dined with the Duke of Newcastle; as he was departing, and handing over his coin to the train of servants, that lined the hall, he put a crown into the hand of the chief cook, who returned it saying, "I never take silver, sir." "Indeed," Sir Timothy replied, returning the piece to his pocket, "I never give gold."

Sir Jonas was an excellent man; and whatever objections he may have had to the practice of giving extravagant "vails" to servants, I think he would have little or nothing to say, against the practice of giving such vails, as the dead may be supposed, vicariously, to bestow upon the living, in the form of rings and gloves. The dead, it must be conceded, seem not so much to give vales at present as they were one hundred years ago. In such dispensations in the olden time, the good man the clergyman was seldom forgotten. Gloves and rings were showered down, upon the Lord's anointed, at weddings, christenings and funerals. When a child I was much puzzled upon two points; first, what became of all the old moons and secondly, what the minister did with his gloves and rings.



An interesting little volume is now lying upon my table, which explains the mystery, not at all in relation to the moons but most happily in respect to rings and gloves. It is the astronomical Diary or Almanac of Nathaniel Ames, Boston, New England, printed by J. Draper, for the booksellers, 1748. This little book is interleaved; and the blank leaves are written over, in the handwriting of good old Andrew Eliot. The gloves received by Dr. Eliot are set against particular names, and under every month in the year. Although a goodly number of rings are enrolled, together with the gloves, yet a page is devoted to rings exclusively, in the middle of the book. At the bottom of the record, the good man states how many pairs were kid; how many were lambswool; and how many were long or women's gloves, intended of course for the parson's wife.

These rings and gloves were sold by the worthy doctor, with the exception of such as were distributed, in his own household (not a small one, for he left eleven children). It appears by the record, in the doctor's own hand, that Mrs. Avis was intrusted with fifteen pairs of women's, and three dozen of men's; and returned, unsold, eight pairs of women's and one dozen and ten pairs of men's. A dozen pairs of men's were committed to Mrs. Langstaff, half a dozen women's to Mr. Langdon, and seventeen pairs to Captain Millens. What a glove and ring market the Doctor's study must have been. In thirty-two years he appears to have received two thousand nine hundred and forty pairs of gloves, at funerals, weddings and baptisms. Of these he sold to the amount of fourteen hundred and forty-one pounds, eighteen shillings, and one penny old tenor, equal to about six hundred and forty dollars, he also sold a goodly number of his rings."

#### CURIOUS EPITAPHS.

The following is a literal copy of the inscription on the monument of William French, in Westminster, Vt.

In Memory of William French son to Mr. Nathaniel French who was Shot at Westminster March ye 13<sup>th</sup> 1775, by the hands of Cruel Ministerial tools of Georg ye 3d in the Corthouse at a 11 a Clock at night in the 22<sup>d</sup> year of his age—

Here William French his Body lies  
For Murder his blood for vengeance cries  
King Georg the third his Tory crew  
tha with a bawl his head shot threw  
For Liberty and his Countrys Good  
he lost his life his Dearest blood.

The following is from a stone in the graveyard of Winchester Cathedral, England:



In Memory of  
 Thomas Fletcher  
 A Grenadier in the North Regiment of Hants  
 Militia.

Who died of a violent Fever, contracted by  
 Drinking small Beer when Hot the 12<sup>th</sup>  
 of May, 1764 aged 26 years  
 In grateful remembrance of whose universal good will  
 towards his comrades, this stone is placed  
 here at their expence, as a small testimony of  
 their regard and concern.

Heere sleeps in peace a Hampshire Grenadier,  
 Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer,  
 Soldiers be wise from his untimely fall  
 And when ye're hot drink strong, or none at al,  
 This memorial being decayed, was restored by the  
 officers of the Garrison A. D. 1781.

An honest soldier never is forgot,  
 Whether he die by musket or by pot.  
 This stone was placed by the North Hants Militia  
 when disembodied at Winchester, on 26<sup>th</sup> April  
 1802, in consequence of the original stone being destroyed.

From a tombstone in Tennessee, which was erected by M. Muldoon,  
 of Chattanooga :

Thomas P. Afterall,  
 The eighth son of  
 Solomon Fidelity Afterall,  
 Killed in 1816 by the Indians.  
 Of Puritan Stock  
 And his fourth Wife  
 Eliza Jane Smith.

Who was the third wife of J. Smith who was her second husband born at the new city of Indianapolis, Ind. in the year of our Blessed Redeemer and Saviour 1814 on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, the same blessed year, and after having been baptized the proper way and acknowledging the true Baptist faith, was married to Peggy Cott (the tallest one,) daughter of Jim Cott (who lived at the forks of the road), who having died, he took to his tender breast his true friend—and mine—Martha Walpus. The two above helpmates gave him seven sweet buds of trust and affection, and I gave him one after his death of myself, who got scalded accidentally by him on maple sugar, and then still trusting the promise of God he took for his third wife his now weeping widow Mary Bangs Afterall (who is myself) and died soon after, on March 10, 1872, A. D., peace to his ashes. Having performed the work laid out for him to do by his Creator, he now rests from his labours. There is no sorroweth there, Erected by his weeping and disconsolate widow, and his truest wife Mary Bangs Afterall.

Here is consolation to parents bereft of a babe :

Mourn not for me ye parents dear  
Justice is done and she lies here.

A few brief remarks explaining why a young widow of twenty, failed of another marriage in 1754 :

The intended wife of Ephraim Gay,  
If death had not took her away.

Epitaph from an old cemetery in Massachusetts :

If the love and esteem of Relatives and Friends  
could have saved him he would not have died.  
Reader, stop still and spend a tear,  
Think on the dust that slumbers here,  
And when you read the fate of me,  
think on the glass that runs for thee.

Another :

How can I chuse but weep, I must  
Since my 3<sup>d</sup> wife is with those 1<sup>st</sup>  
O God be pleased to comfort me,  
And all my grief and sorrow see,  
Well make me live whilst here I be,  
At death receive me up to thee,  
Where I celestial songs may sing  
With thee, to Christ our Heavenly King.

From the old cemetery in York, Me. :

#### RESURRECTION.

To Imortality in Spotless Beauty with all other Bodily Perfections, after the fashion of Christs Glorious Body, is expected for the Subadjacent dust of Lucy Moody, who was born and died July the 6, 1705. This Birth, Spousals to Christ, Death, Coronation all in One Day may have their celebration.

This epitaph is taken from a cemetery in Pittstown, Rensselaer county, N. Y. :

Ruth Sprague, daughter of Gibson and Elizabeth Sprague, died Jan'y 11<sup>th</sup> 1846, aged 9 yrs. 4 mos. 5 days.

She was stolen from the grave by T. L. Shaw and dissected by Dr. Roger B. Wilson, in Hoosic, N. Y., from whom her mutilated remains were obtained and deposited here.

Her body dissected by fiendish men,  
Her bones anatomized,  
Her soul we trust, has risen to God,  
Where few Physicians rise.



This is said to have been found on the headstone of a child of six months :

If I so soon am done for  
O, what was I begun for.

An epitaph of which the last words were intended to be "Let her rest in peace." The engraver, however, being pressed for room abbreviated it in the following manner :

Let her R. I. P.

The following epitaph is copied from a village burying ground near Au Sable chasm, New York :

Sally Thomas is here, and that's enough,  
The candle is out ; also the snuff.  
Her soul's with God, you need not fear,  
And what remains is interred here.

The following epitaph is copied from a stone in the Charter Street Burying Ground, Salem, Mass. :

The Nathaniel Mather who is commemorated on the stone was a brother of Cotton Mather, D.D., of Boston :

Memento Mori.  
Mr. Nathaniel Mather, Dec<sup>d</sup>. October y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>  
1688.  
An aged person  
That had seen  
But nineteen winters  
In the world.

An epitaph from an old tablet in the Presbyterian graveyard in Southold, Eastern Long Island :

Here lies W<sup>m</sup>. Wells.  
Died 1671. Sheriff of the East Riding of Yorkshire in England.  
Yea, Here He lyes, who speaketh yet though Dead.  
On Wings of Faith his Soul to Heaven is Fled  
His pious deeds and Charity was such  
That of his Praise no pen can write too much.  
As was his Lyfe, so was his Blest Decease ;  
He lyved in Love, and Sweetly dyed in Peace.

Epitaph copied verbatim :

Here lies the body of Andrew McPherson,  
Who realy was a very extraordinary person.  
He was two yards high in his stocking feet,  
And kept his accoutrements clean and neat,

He was slew, at the battle of Waterlog,  
 Shot by a bullet plump through the gullet, The ball  
 Went into his throat and out at the back of his coat.  
 Death comes to all, both great and small.

Epitaph in a graveyard near Salem, Mass. :

Here lies ——— the inventor of shade lamps. The establishment is still kept open by his afflicted sons, who will sell their wares at most reasonable prices.

The above epitaph is accompanied by a chiselled illustration of the style of "shades" manufactured by the bereaved descendants.

From a tombstone in New Hampshire :

Here lies the lovely blooming daughter,  
 Shot by the cruel hand of the malicious Henry,  
 As on his way from school he met her,  
 And with a six self-cocked pistol shot her.

Another :

Peleg Eddy and his wife,  
 They sot out in early life,  
 They turned about each others hearts,  
 But God doth call and we must part,  
 With anxious care she watched his bed,  
 And kept cold towels on his head,  
 But all in vain, for God did send,  
 And call away her bosom friend,  
 Sleep on, sleep on, and take thy rest ;  
 God called the home he deemed it best.

One from Greyfriar's churchyard, London :

This life is but a winters day,  
 Some only breakfast and away  
 Others to dinner stay,  
 And are full fed ;  
 The oldest man but sups,  
 Then goes to bed  
 Large is his debt,  
 Who lingers out the day  
 He that goes soonest  
 Has the least to pay.

Some of the inscriptions on the headstones in the churchyard at Mc-Millan's Point near Hastings, on the Straits of Canso, are very quaint. Here is one of them.

Adieu, dearest children, thy journey is o'er ;  
 No sorrow can reach thee, nor trouble no more.



Another, almost obliterated, seems to be :

Jesus, while sailing from the Island of Jersey to Quebec.  
Our Harry stole away, and he went at his beck.

Epitaph in Rehoboth, Mass. :

In memory Mr. Benjamin Brown,  
Son of Capt. Benjamin Brown  
and Mrs. Keziah his wife.  
Departed this life in the 29<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1754.  
in ye 28<sup>th</sup> year of his age.

My beauty great is all quite gone,  
My flesh is wasted to the bone,  
My house is narrow now and strong ;  
Nothing but truth comes from my tongue  
And if you should see me this day  
I do not think but you would say  
That I had never been a man,  
So much altered now I am ;  
For Gods sake Pray the Heavenly King  
That he my soul to heaven would bring ;  
And they that pray and make accord  
For me unto my God and Lord,  
God place them in his Paradise  
Wherein no wretched catiff lies."

Here are some curious epitaphs which are said to be found in the graveyard at Belturbet, Ireland :

Here lies John Higley whose father and mother were drowned in their passage from America, Had they both lived they would have been buried here,

Here lies the body of John Mound,  
Lost at sea and never found,  
Oh, cruel death, how could you be so unkind  
To take him before, and leave me behind.  
You should have taken both of us, if either ;  
Which would have been more pleasing to the survivor.

Here lies the mother of children five,  
Three are dead, and two are alive ;  
Those who are dead preferring rather  
To die with their mother than to live with their father.

The following epitaph may be found in the cemetery at Stoughton, Mass. :

Farewell, dear husband, I must leave you,  
And these, my two sweet little babes.  
Ere long I shall meet you and them too,  
Beyond deaths dark and gloomy shades.

## In the cloisters of Westminster Abbey :

With diligence and trust most exemplary  
 Did William Lawrence serve a prebendary  
 And for his paines now past before not lost  
 Gained this remembrance at his master's cost.

O read these lines again you seldome find  
 A servant faithfull and a master kind

Short hand he wrot, his flowre in prime did fade  
 And hasty death short hand of him hath made  
 Well covth he nūbers and well mesvr'd land  
 Thus doth he now that grond wheron yov stand  
 Wherein he lyes so geometrical  
 Art maketh some but thvs will natvre all  
 Obijt December : 23 1621  
 Aetatis Svae 29

## From the old burying ground, Upham's Corner, Dorchester :

There lyes our captain and major of Suffolk was withall,  
 A godly magistrate was he, and major generall,  
 Two troops of hors with him here came, such worth his love did crave.  
 Ten companyes of foot also mourning marcht to his grave,  
 Let all who read be sure to keep the faith as he hath done.  
 With Christ he lives—now crown'd his name was  
 Humphrey Atherton.

He died the 16 June 1661.

[Humphrey Atherton was one of the earliest and most prominent residents of Dorchester, Mass., and was an active persecutor of the Quakers. On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June, 1661, he attended a military parade on Boston Common. On his way home in the dusk his horse stumbled and fell, throwing him upon his head with such force that his brains were literally dashed out. The Quakers openly declared it to be the judgment of God for his persecution of their sect. He was buried in the old graveyard at the corner of Stoughton and Boston streets, Upham's Corner, Dorchester.]

## Epitaphs from a graveyard in Western New York :

Sleep on little Dannie and take thy rest  
 God called thee home when he thought best  
 And left your ma with an aching breast.

In childhood unto this town I came  
 Reader repent thy lot may be the same.

## The following is from a graveyard in Cohasset :

Her beautiful form without compare,  
 Was handsomer than angels are ;  
 All earthly beauties must yield to her,  
 And her mind was perfectly pure.

The following plainly spoken epitaph on Dr. Samuel Johnson was written by Soams Jenyns. It gives in a few words a by no means untrue character of the great lexicographer :



Here lies poor Johnson : reader, have a care ;  
Tread lightly lest you rouse a sleeping bear,  
Religious, moral, generous and humane  
He was ; but self-sufficient, rude and vain ;  
Ill-bred and overbearing in dispute ;  
A scholar and a Christian and a brute.

Would you know all his wisdom and his folly,  
His actions, sayings, mirth and melancholy.  
Boswell and Thrale, retailers of his wit,  
Will tell you how he wrote and talked and coughed and spit.

Epitaph from an Irish graveyard :

Here lies the body of Lady O'Looney,  
Grandniece to Edmund Burke,  
Commonly called "the sublime,"  
She was bland, passionate and deeply religious,  
Also  
She painted in watercolors  
Also  
She sent several articles to the exhibition  
She was the first cousin to Lady Jones  
And of such is the kingdom of heaven.  
Amen.

The following is from a graveyard in Keesville (N.Y.) :

Here lies the bodys of two sisters dear  
One's buried in Ireland, the other lies here.

Epitaph on a monument in Horseley Down Church, in England :

Here lies the bodies  
of Thomas Bond and Mary his wife.  
She was temperate, Chaste and Charitable ;  
But  
She was Proud, Pevish and Passionate,  
She was an affectionate wife and tender Mother ;  
But  
Her Husband and child, whom she loved  
Seldom saw her countenance without a disgusting frown.  
Whilst she received Visitors whom she despised  
with an endearing smile,  
Her behavior was discreet towards strangers ;  
But  
Imprudent in her family,  
Abroad her conduct was influenced by good  
breeding ;

But  
 at home by ill temper.  
 She was a professed enemy to Flattery.  
 And was seldom known to praise or commend ;  
 But  
 The talents in which she principally excelled  
 Were difference of opinion, and discovering flaws  
 and Imperfections.  
 She was an admirable economist ;  
 and without prodigality.  
 Dispensed plenty to every person in her Family ;  
 But  
 Would sacrifice their eyes to a Farthing Candle.  
 She sometimes made her husband happy with her  
 good qualities ;  
 But  
 much more frequently miserable—with her many  
 Failings ;  
 Insomuch that in 30 years of marriage he often  
 Lamented that  
 Maugre all her virtues,  
 He had not in the whole enjoyed ten years of  
 Matrimonial Comfort.  
 At length,  
 Finding that she had lost the affections of her  
 Husband,  
 As well as the regard of her neighbours,  
 Family disputes having been divulged by Servants,  
 She died of Vexation, July 20, 1768,  
 Aged 48 years.  
 Her worn out Husband survived her 4 month and  
 ten days,  
 And departed this life Nov<sup>r</sup>. 28, 1768.  
 In the 54 year of his age.  
 William Bond, Brother of the deceased, erected  
 this stone,  
 As a weekly monitor to the surviving wives of  
 this Parish,  
 That they may avoid the infamy  
 of having their Memories handed down to Posterity  
 with a Patch-work Character.

Inscriptions from stones in Christ Church yard in Alexandria, Va. :

In Memory of  
 dorothy harper uxor of  
 John W. harper



Who departed this life 3 Sept., 1800,  
After an indisposition of 3 years and 5  
months. Aged 42 years and 8 months.

In memory of  
Henry Bover  
Who departed this life March 7th, 1799,  
Aged 43 years and 4 days.  
All you that cums my grave to see,  
Prepare yourselves to follow me,  
Repent and turn to God in time,  
You may be taken in your prime

In memory of  
Alex'r Latimer,  
Who departed this life on the 22<sup>d</sup> day of  
December, in the year of our Lord  
1806. Aged 42 years.  
Who affliction sore long time he bore,  
Physicians was in vain.  
Till God was pleased death should him seize  
And ease him of his pain.

Copied by Sam<sup>l</sup>. Curwen, Esq., of Salem, Mass., in 1778, from a  
stone in a country churchyard in England :

Bene  
AT. H. T. his, S. T.  
Oneli ESKA  
Thari Neg Rayc  
Hang'd  
F. R.  
O ! mab. V, Syli Fetol  
If Ele  
ss cl  
Ayb, ye ar  
Than  
D cl—Ays  
Hego  
Therp, Elfa  
N D  
No. ws, he'stur  
Nd toe art.  
Ilh, ersel Fy  
E wee — Pin  
Gfr—I—En  
D. S. L.

## FUNERAL CUSTOMS.

Et mea D

VI.

Seab, ate yo

V R G,

Rie, Fan

D D

R yy O! V—Rey

Esf, or wh

A T A

Vai ——— L. Safl

O! Doft Ears. W

Hok no : Wsb

Vt Ina Runo

Fy ears

In So——metall

Pit——C

Hero R—broa

DP,

Ans. He, — I,

n H

Ers Hopma

Y. B.

E—Aga——In.



Photograph of Gravestone in Charter St. Burial Ground,  
Salem, Mass,



